Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of 7000 villages during the first three years of the Ninth Plan Period. Out of the targets set. REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages at the end of December, 1999. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under RE programme has set a target of energisation of 7.40.000 pumpsets during the first three years of the Ninth Plan period. Out of the targets set. REC has already achieved energisation of 6,49,000 pumpsets at the end of December. 1999.

**Sale of Power by SEBs**

*378. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the State Electricity Boards are forcing the industrial consumers to buy power for their use even when such industries have their own captive power;

(b)if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Central Government would formulate a policy by which crores of Rupees invested for production of captive power is not kept idle due to short term policy of State Electricity Boards and public sector power producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Government has not received any complaint from any of the captive po\\er producers of their being forced to buy power from the State Electricity Boards even when they have their own captive power.

Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

The Government of India, through a circular letter dated October 9, 1995 has advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism A\ hich may allow captive power units an cas\' entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

**Economic Development of NF States**

*379, SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to State :